

TOUR 1

New Orleans to West Pointe a la Hache (West Bank, Mississippi River)

THE FRENCH QUARTER (A National Historic Landmark)

Merieult House

(OPEN TO PUBLIC)

Erected in 1792 during the Spanish colonial era by Jean François Merieult, this was one of the most elegant homes of its time and one of few structures surviving in the city after the disastrous fire of 1794. The



Merieult House

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front of the house was remodeled in 1832, but the building was completely restored in the 1960s by inveterate collectors General and Mrs. L. Kemper Williams.

The structure now anchors The Historic New Orleans Collection, an outstanding house museum and research center interpreting state and local history and culture through changing exhibits and extensive collections of books, paintings, prints, maps, documents, and other significant artifacts.

Surrounding the courtyard are the Counting House and the Williams Residence, one of the Vieux Carré's "hidden houses," built in 1899 and adapted by noted architect Richard Koch to the needs and tastes of General and Mrs. Williams.

The Merieult House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Historic New Orleans Collection is a member of the American Association of Museums.

Open Tuesday-Saturday 9:30-4:30; tours at 10, 11, 2, and 3. Entrance fee, except Williams Gallery free. Call (504) 523-4662. Online www.hnoc.org.

533 Royal St. in the French Quarter.

Marchand House

Built between 1808 and 1820, this restored French Quarter residence is constructed of brick with plaster and hand-hewn cypress.

Private.

830 Royal St. in the French Quarter.



Gallier House

Gallier House

(OPEN TO PUBLIC)

James Gallier, Jr., was one of New Orleans' most highly regarded 19th-century architects. His accomplishments include the impressive French Opera House and other notable structures, and when he put his considerable talents to work designing his own residence in 1857, the results were spectacular.

This comprehensive house museum, now a National Historic Landmark, has been carefully restored and filled with sumptuous furnishings of the 1860s, the period of Gallier's residency. Living-history demonstrations and seasonal changes in decor further enhance the interpretation of the past here.

Open Monday-Friday 10-4; last tour begins at 3; closed major holidays. Entrance fee. Call (504) 525-5661. Online www.hgghh.org.

1118 Royal St. in the French Quarter.

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Hermann-Grima House

Hermann-Grima House

(OPEN TO PUBLIC)

One of the finest of French Quarter homes, the Hermann-Grima House was built in 1831 by wealthy merchant Samuel Hermann. A Federal mansion designed by William Brand, it has amazingly retained most of its original dependencies, including a horse stable, scullery, wine room, garçonnaire, and even the cast-iron cistern at the rear of the beautifully landscaped courtyard.

The house has been painstakingly restored to accurately reflect the elegant lifestyle of prosperous Creole families in the Vieux Carré before the Civil War. Costumed docents discuss lifestyles, customs, and the decorative arts in these Golden Years of New Orleans, and lively special-focus tours and interpretive programs are conducted year round. In the functioning detached 1830s kitchen, open-hearth cooking demonstrations are given.

The Hermann-Grima House is a National Historic Landmark.

Open Monday-Friday 10-4; last tour begins at 3. Entrance fee. Call (504) 525-5661. Online www.hgghh.org.

820 St. Louis St. in the French Quarter.



Madame John's Legacy

Madame John's Legacy

(OPEN TO PUBLIC)

One of the oldest residences in New Orleans, Madame John's was neither a plantation home nor a palatial mansion, but its history is marked with mystery and links to Louisiana literature. Its name is derived from George Washington Cable's celebrated story "Tite Poulette," featuring Madame John, the quadroon mistress of the owner.

The house was built around 1788 to replace an earlier structure destroyed in the great fire that swept the city that year. Its builder was an American, Robert Jones, and it was the residence of Don Manuel de Lanzos, captain of the Spanish army in New Orleans. Though constructed during the Spanish colonial era, its design is typically French colonial, with living quarters raised above a brick basement said to have served as storage for contraband and a rendezvous for early pirates. One of Jean Lafitte's celebrated Baratarians, Renato Beluche who fought in the Battle of New Orleans, was born in this house.

The house was donated to the Louisiana State Museum in 1947 by Stella H. Lemann and is a National Historic Landmark.

Open Tuesday-Sunday 9-5. Entrance fee. Children under 12 free. Call (504) 568-6968. Online www.lsm.crt.state.la.us.

632 Dumaine St. in the French Quarter.

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1850 House

(OPEN TO PUBLIC)

Located in a portion of the magnificent Pontalba Buildings facing Jackson Square in the French Quarter, the 1850 House re-creates a typical New Orleans dwelling of the period. Its splendid antique furnishings include pieces by Seignouret and Mallard, two of New Orleans' most famous cabinetmakers.

The two Pontalba rowhouse buildings, considered the oldest apartments in the United States, were constructed between 1849 and 1851 by Baroness Micaela Almonester de Pontalba. The 1850 House, in the Lower Pontalba Building, is a Louisiana State Museum and National Historic Landmark.

Open Tuesday-Saturday 9-5. Entrance fee. Call (504) 568-6968. Online www.lsm.crt.state.la.us.

252 St. Ann St. in the French Quarter.



1850 House

Beauregard-Keyes House

(OPEN TO PUBLIC)

This superbly simple Greek Revival cottage, built in 1826 by auctioneer Joseph LeCarpentier, takes its name from its two most famous occupants: Confederate general Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard and Frances Parkinson Keyes. Mrs. Keyes, celebrated author of more than 50 novels, lived in the house and created the Keyes Foundation to preserve and manage the property.

The raised cottage with its peaceful rear courtyard and lovely little side parterre garden displays a pronounced Federal influence, distinguishing it from most Vieux Carré dwellings.

The Beauregard-Keyes House, opposite the old Ursuline Convent, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Open Monday-Saturday 10-3. Entrance fee. Call (504) 523-7257.

1113 Chartres St. in the French Quarter.



Beauregard-Keyes House

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Lombard Plantation

This beautifully restored old structure is considered one of the last remaining examples of a Creole manor house. It was built in 1826 by Joseph Lombard, Sr., for his son and daughter-in-law. At that time the property included a large area adjacent to the Vieux Carré, which was later divided and sold. The interesting art nouveau brackets now on the gallery are an 1890s addition.

Private.

3933 Chartres St., east (downriver) of the French Quarter.

BAYOU SAINT JOHN

Louis Blanc House

This West Indian-style home built in 1798 has broad galleries and a large roof typical of New Orleans Spanish colonial architecture. The site was once part of the Bayou St. John properties of Don Almonester y Roxas, who sold it in 1793 to Louis Blanc, who in turn sold it to his son in 1816. A sketch by Charles Alexander Le Sueur about 1830 indicates that the house may then have been a one-story structure with gabled ends.

Private.

924 Moss St. on Bayou St. John.

De Matteo House

Although popularly known as the Old Spanish Custom House, there is no evidence that this structure ever was used for such a purpose. The land on which the house stands was purchased in 1771 by Juan Renato Huchet de Kernion, and the fine West Indies-style house may have been built in 1784, when the site was the plantation of Don Santiago Lloreins.

Private.

1300 Moss St. on Bayou St. John.



Holy Rosary Rectory

Holy Rosary Rectory

This building, also known as the Evariste Blanc House, was built about 1834 and was donated by Blanc's descendents for use as a parish church, parsonage, and school. Notable features include its fence, entrance doors, columns, dormers, and graceful balustrade of the captain's walk atop the roof. Side galleries are supported from the roof by iron rods instead of columns, as on the front. The five Ionic columns of the entrance doorways and other details from the 1830s indicate the Greek Revival influence. It is now the rectory of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church.

Private.

1342 Moss St. on Bayou St. John.

Morel-Wisner House

This 1850s Greek Revival raised cottage, possibly constructed as a residence for attorney Christoval Morel, housed in 1882 the first fencing club in New Orleans and also served as headquarters of a famous rowing club.

Private.

1347 Moss St. on Bayou St. John.

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Pitot House

Pitot House

(OPEN TO PUBLIC)

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Pitot House has been beautifully restored by the Louisiana Landmarks Society.

Built about 1799 and purchased in 1810 by James Pitot, the first elected mayor of incorporated New Orleans after the Louisiana Purchase, this Creole colonial house was moved from its original nearby location in 1964.

Open Wednesday-Saturday 10-3; closed holidays. Entrance fee. Call (504) 482-0312. Online www.louisianalandmarks.org.

1440 Moss St. on Bayou St. John.

Wilkinson Home

This fine Greek Revival house was once the property of Evariste Blanc. Blanc purchased the property from the succession of Etienne Reine in 1847, and the present house was constructed some time after that date.

The Robert Musgrove family owned it from 1859 until 1882.

Private.

1454 Moss St. on Bayou St. John.

THE GARDEN DISTRICT (A National Historic Landmark)

Westfeldt House

This square, raised cottage was probably built circa 1838 on the edge of the old Livaudais plantation, which was purchased in 1832 for \$490,000 from Madame Jacques François Livaudais, then living in Paris, and subdivided to become the picturesque section known as the Garden District. The property was laid out to resemble a huge park and was filled with the classic mansions built by the Americans who poured into the area after the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. They settled in the Garden District in order to remove themselves from the French and Spanish colonial influences of the older Creole section of the city, the Vieux Carré.

New Orleans is a city eternally in bloom, with an enormous variety of flora thriving in its warm, humid climate and fertile, alluvial soil, and nowhere is this better seen than along the oak-shaded avenues of the Garden District. The fine gardens set off elaborately furnished homes built mostly from the 1840s through the 1860s in a communal display of newly acquired Anglo-American wealth.

One of the oldest homes in the Garden District, the Westfeldt House was extensively altered in 1855. A beautiful live oak on the grounds is a frequent subject for artists.

Private.

2340 Prytania St.



Westfeldt House

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The Jacob Payne-Strachan House

The Jacob Payne-Strachan House

On December 6, 1889, this classic 1849 Greek Revival home, with five bays and double galleries, was the scene of Jefferson Davis's death. When the president of the Confederacy fell ill, he had been brought to the home of his friend Judge Charles Fenner, son-in-law of homeowner Jacob Payne.

Private.

1134 First St.

The Brevard-Rice House

An 1857 Greek Revival structure later decorated with an Italianate bay, this three-story residence has an ornate two-level columned entry porch and inside, double parlors separated by an elliptical archway.

It was designed by architect James Calrow for Albert Brevard but is best known for a later resident, author Anne Rice, who used it in her novel *The Witching Hour* as the ancestral home of the Mayfair witches. (Rice locates the Mayfair family tomb in nearby Lafayette Cemetery No. 1, one of New Orleans' "cities of the dead" with its unique above-ground tombs. The cemetery dates from 1833 and is entered just across from world-famous Commander's Palace restaurant).

Private.

1239 First St.



Brevard-Rice House

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The Walter Robinson House

Built beginning in 1859 for Virginian Walter Robinson, whose wealth came from tobacco and banking, this center-hall house had a roof designed to collect water, providing rare early indoor plumbing.

With its striking appearance and perfection of scale, this home is considered the masterpiece of Irish-born architect Henry Howard, who lived on First Street and designed at least two dozen homes in the Garden District, as well as many plantation manors in outlying areas. The 80-block Garden District, now a National Historic Landmark as well as a National Register of Historic Places district bordered by Josephine St., Magazine St., Louisiana Ave., and Carondelet St., boasts prime examples of the works of the best builders and architects in Crescent City history, including Howard, James Gallier, Jr., and Paris-trained William A. Freret.

Private.

1415 Third St.



Walter Robinson House



Cornstalk fence surrounding the Robert Short House

The Robert Short House

Designed by noted architect Henry Howard, this fine home was built for a cost of about \$24,000 and is most noted for its famous cornstalk fence. One explanation for the fence's unusual design was that the wife of first owner Col. Robert Short was homesick for the Iowa cornfields where she had grown up.

Private.

1448 Fourth St.

Audubon Park

This beautiful 247-acre park now stands on what once were the Foucher and de Boré plantations, the latter distinguished by the fact that its owner first granulated sugar commercially there in 1795. In 1884 the area was the site of the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition. The master plan for the park was designed by John Charles Olmstead in 1897. A statue of naturalist John James Audubon may be seen, as well as gardens, an amusement center, and the expansive zoo.

St. Charles Ave., across from Tulane University.

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WEST BANK

Aurora

More than a century old, Aurora has round columns supporting a gallery across the front. The roof is supported by slender colonnettes that rise from the second-floor gallery.

Private.

Patterson Dr. in the Aurora Gardens section of Algiers, west bank of the Mississippi River.

Woodland Plantation

(OPEN TO PUBLIC)

The last plantation left standing in the Deep Delta on the Mississippi River's west bank, the property dates back to 1834 when William Johnson was a prosperous sugar baron and river pilot. His son Bradish was said to have worn a tall silk hat, Prince Albert coat, and striped pants everyday. During Prohibition, bootleggers found safe haven here.

Extensive grounds along the river batture include an overseer's house, slave cabin, and 1880s chapel with vaulted ceiling and stained-glass windows ideal for weddings, receptions, group meals, and retreats. Fishing expeditions can be planned, and overnight accommodations are provided in the main house, which appears on the label of Southern Comfort.

Call (504) 656-9990. Online www.woodlandplantation.com.

21997 La. Hwy. 23, two miles above West Pointe a la Hache.



Woodland Plantation